

CLASSIFICATION SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SUBJECT Salt Traffic in the Caspian Area

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1. The main sources of table salt in the USSR are Elton, Baskunchak, the Vladimirovka region (about 250 kilometers above Astrakhan on the Volga) and the Astrakhan region (Trusovo). Salt mined in the Astrakhan region is consumed locally in its entirety, and in the event of a shortage, the local supply is supplemented with imports from the Vladimirovka region. In addition, salt from Vladimirovka and in part from Baskunchak is sent by river vessels to Astrakhan for shipment on the Caspian Sea.
2. In Astrakhan at pier 17 salt is reloaded from river barges onto sea-going vessels and onto the pier. In 1951 there was a planned total shipment of 400 thousand tons of table salt on the Caspian Sea from Astrakhan.
3. Gurev gets its supplies of table salt from Sel-Iletsk while Krasnovodsk has its own salt mines in the Kuuli Mayak which not only cover local needs but also those of many regions of Middle Asia.
4. The main supplier of Glauber's salt is Kara-Bogaz-Gol Bay. This salt is sent in large shipments through Krasnovodsk to other Caspian ports. In 1951 shipments of Glauber's salt from Krasnovodsk by sea was planned at 400 thousand tons, in:
 - (a) 100 thousand tons to Astrakhan
 - (b) 100 thousand tons to Makhaachkala;
 - (c) 200 thousand tons to Baku

In the port of Krasnovodsk Glauber's salt is reloaded at the second sector.

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